



SHILAP Revista de Lepidopterología

ISSN: 0300-5267

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Sociedad Hispano-Luso-Americana de
Lepidopterología
España

Asselbergs, J. E. F.; Seguna, A.; Sammut, P.
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SHILAP Revista de Lepidopterología, vol. 36, núm. 144, diciembre, 2008, pp. 465-471
Sociedad Hispano-Luso-Americana de Lepidopterología
Madrid, España

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Recent records of Pyraloidea species new to Malta, including two species new to the European fauna (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea)

J. E. F. Asselbergs, A. Seguna & P. Sammut

Abstract

Acrobasis obliqua clusinella Zeller, 1848, *Acrobasis centunculella* (Mann, 1859), *Psorosa dahliella* (Treitschke, 1832), *Psorosa mediterranea* Amsel, 1953, *Euzopherodes lutesignella* (Mann, 1869), *Delplanqueia inscriptella* (Duponchel, 1836), *Isauria dilucidella* (Duponchel, 1836), *Euchromius gozmanyi* Błeszyński, 1961, *Udea numeralis* (Hübner, 1796), *Ancylosis (Heterographis) costistrigella* (Ragonot, 1890) and *Caina deletella* Ragonot, 1893 are new to the Maltese Islands. The latter two species are also the first records for the European fauna. Where known, data on the biology, the first stages and the distribution of the species is given. Additional notes on some other pyraloid species from Malta are also given.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Pyraloidea, new records, European fauna, Malta.

Recientes citas de especies nuevas de Pyraloidea para Malta, incluyendo dos especies nuevas para la fauna europea (Lepidoptera: Pyraloidea)

Resumen

Acrobasis obliqua clusinella Zeller, 1848, *Acrobasis centunculella* (Mann, 1859), *Psorosa dahliella* (Treitschke, 1832), *Psorosa mediterranea* Amsel, 1953, *Euzopherodes lutesignella* (Mann, 1869), *Delplanqueia inscriptella* (Duponchel, 1836), *Isauria dilucidella* (Duponchel, 1836), *Euchromius gozmanyi* Błeszyński, 1961, *Udea numeralis* (Hübner, 1796), *Ancylosis (Heterographis) costistrigella* (Ragonot, 1890) y *Caina deletella* Ragonot, 1893, son nuevas para Malta. Las dos últimas especies también son primeras citas para la fauna europea. Se dan, donde se conocen, datos sobre su biología, los primeros estados y la distribución de las especies. También se dan notas de algunas otras especies de pirálidos de Malta.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Pyraloidea, nuevas citas, fauna europea, Malta.

Introduction

So far, about 16,000 Pyraloidea species have been described (HEPPNER, 1991). It is estimated that many more are still awaiting description. Also, from many species the early stages, the biology and the distribution are insufficiently known or not known at all. In this paper eight Pyraloidea species new to Malta are mentioned, including two which are new to the European fauna. At present the Pyraloidea-fauna of Malta comprises 134 species, which number is composed as follows: Pyralidae are represented by Galleriinae (5 species), Pyralinae (12 species) and Phycitinae (68 species) species; Crambidae are represented by Scopariinae, Cybalomiinae and Acentropinae (1 species each), Glaphyriinae (2 species), Odontiinae and Evergestinae (3 species each), Crambinae (9 species), Spilomelinae (13 species) and Pyraustinae (16 species) (SAMMUT, 1984, 2000).

Material and methods

In this article, unless otherwise stated, all material has been determined by the first author; the material studied is in the collections of the second and the third author and has been collected at mixed UV/MV light. All material studied is in the collection of the second two authors.

PYRALIDAE Phycitinae

Acrobasis obliqua clusinella Zeller, 1848 (Fig. 1)

[*Acrobasis clusinella* Zeller, 1848. *Isis von Oken*, 1848: 610]

Material examined: MALTA, 1 ex., Bingemma, 30-IV-1999, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Mellicha, il-Kortin, 12-IV-2006, H. Borg-Barthet leg. [in coll. Sammut]; 1 ex., Naxxar, Tas-Saghjtar, 29-IV-2006, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ♀, Rabat, Dwejra, 25-IV-2007, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Rabat, Dwejra, 30-IV-2007, A. Seguna leg.

Biology: The larva of the nominotypical form is known to feed on *Cistus* spp. (SPULER, 1910). Adults from V-VIII.

Distribution: Known mainly from S. and S.E. Europe, including the Mediterranean islands of Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily (NUSS *et al.*, 2004).

Acrobasis centunculella (Mann, 1859) (Fig. 2)

[*Myelois centunculella* Mann, 1859. *Wien. ent. Monatschr.*, 3: 165]

Material examined: MALTA, 2 ♀ ♀, Rabat, Dwejra, 25-IV-2007, A. Seguna leg.

Biology and first stages undescribed. Adults from IV-VIII.

Distribution: Known from France, Spain, Italy and Sicily, former Yugoslavia, Greece, and Turkey (NUSS *et al.*, 2004)

Psorosa dahliaella (Treitschke, 1832) (Fig. 3)

[*Phycis dahliaella* Treitschke, 1832. *Schmett. Europa*, 9(1):198]

Material examined: MALTA, 1 ♂, Naxxar, 11-VII-2001, A. Seguna leg.

Biology and first stages unknown. Adults: from VI-X.

Distribution: Known from S. and SE. Europe, Slovakia, Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily (NUSS *et al.*, 2004).

Psorosa mediterranea Amsel, 1953 (Fig. 4)

[*Psorosa mediterranea* Amsel, 1953. *Ark. Zool.*, [2]6: 279, Figs. 27a, 29]

Material examined: MALTA, 1 ♂, Rabat, Dwejra, 28-VI-2004, [gen. prep. GP 5796 Ass.] A. Seguna leg.; 1 ♂, Naxxar, Tas-Sghajtar, 20-V-2006, A. Seguna leg.

Biology: early stages and larval host plant unknown. Adults from VII-IX.

Distribution: France, Spain, Portugal, Sicily, Italy and former Yugoslavia ((NUSS *et al.*, 2004).

Ancylosis (Heterographis) costistrigella (Ragonot, 1890) (Fig. 5)

[*Heterographis costistrigella* Ragonot, 1890. *Bull. Soc. ent. Fr.*, 1890: 111]

Material examined: MALTA, 1 ♂, Naxxar, 22-V-2006, A. Seguna leg.

Biology: Larva feeds in silken tubes at ground level, mining leaves of *Salvia aegyptiaca* L. mining the leaves (CHRÉTIEN, 1917). Locally, the larval host plant is not yet known.

Distribution: Known from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Bahrain, Palestine, Sudan, Iran, and Afghanistan (ROESLER, 1973).

Euzopherodes lutsignella (Mann, 1869) (Fig. 6)

[*Myelois lutsignella* Mann, 1869. *Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien*, 19: 381]

Material examined: MALTA, 1 ♀, Siggiewi, Ghar Lapsi, 3-VIII-2001, [gen. prep. GP 5818 Ass.], P. Sammut leg.; 1 ♀, Naxxar, 8-VI-2003, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ♀, Gharghur, 10-IV-2007, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ♀, Rabat, Dwejra, 25-IV-2007, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ♀, Rabat, Dwejra, 30-IV-2007, [gen. prep. GP. 5791 Ass.], A. Seguna leg.; 1 ♀, Naxxar, 20-VI-2007, A. Seguna leg.

Biology and first stages: Larva on *Phlomis lychnitis* L. (HAMPSON, 1901). Adults: from III-VIII (based on label information from specimens in the collection of the first author).

Distribution: In Europe, the nominotypical subspecies *lutisignella*, is known from Sicily, Romania, former Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Crete (NUSS *et al.*, 2004). In N. Africa it has been recorded from Cyrenaica (ROESLER, 1973).

Delplanqueia inscriptella (Duponchel, 1836) (Fig. 7)

[*Phycis inscriptella* Duponchel, 1836. In Godart & Duponchel, *Hist. nat. Lépid. Fr.* 10(7): 202, pl. 279]

Material examined: MALTA, 1 ♀, Naxxar, 16-VI-2002, [gen. prep. GP 5789 Ass.], A. Seguna leg.

Biology: Larva on *Thymus* sp. (LERAUT, 2001).

Distribution: In Europe it is known from Spain and France (NUSS *et al.*, 2004; LERAUT, 2001)

Isauria dilucidella (Duponchel, 1836) (Fig. 8)

[*Phycis dilucidella* Duponchel, 1836. In Godart & Duponchel, *Hist. nat. Lépid. Fr.*, 10:184, pl. 278, fig.7]

Material examined: MALTA, 1 ex., Naxxar, 6-V-1999, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ♀, Rabat, 6-X-2001, P. Sammut leg.; 1 ♀, Rabat, 13-IX-2002, P. Sammut leg.; 1 ♀, Dingli, Dingli Cliffs, 10-VI-2003, [gen. prep. GP. 5806 Ass.], A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Dingli, Dingli Cliffs, 4-X-2004, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Rabat, Dwejra, 9-VI-2007, A. Seguna leg.

Biology: Larva is reddish-brown, yellowish ventrally with flown-out, slightly darker side lines (HASENFUSS, 1960). Head yellow (HANNEMANN, 1964). Larva can be found from July, and, after hibernation till June of the following year, in a silken tube perpendicular in the soil, feeding on *Lotus corniculatus* L., and *Astragalus monspessulanus* L. (LHOMME, 1935). Adults: are on the wing from April till September.

Distribution: In Europe, the species is found in Spain, France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Poland, Czech Rep., Slovakia, Italy, Sicily, Sardinia, Hungary, Romania, former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, and European Russia (NUSS *et al.*, 2004). From N. Africa it is known from Algeria (CHRETIEN, 1917). It is also known from Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia (ROESLER, 1993).

Caina deletella Ragonot, 1893 (Fig. 9)

[*Caina deletella* Ragonot, 1893. In Romanoff, *Mém. Lépid.*, 7: 466, pl.18, fig.11]

Material examined: MALTA, 1 ♀, Rabat, 28-III-2007, [GP. 5814 Ass.], P. Sammut leg.

Biology and first stages unknown. Adults are on the wing from the end of March (this paper) till June and again from September till November (RAGONOT, 1893), probably in two generations.

Distribution: Known from the Persian Gulf (Fao) and from India (Poona) (RAGONOT, 1893). This species is new also to the fauna of Europe.

CRAMBIDAE

Crambinae

Euchromius gozmanyi Błeszyński, 1961 (Fig.10)

[*Euchromius gozmanyi* Błeszyński, 1961. *Acta ent. Mus. natn. Pragae*, 34: 462, figs. 7, 17]

Material examined: GOZO, 1 ex., Kercem, San Rafflu, 15-VI-2001, P. Sammut leg.; 9 exx., Ramla l-Hamra, 19-VI-1998, A. Seguna leg.; 5 exx., Ramla l-Hamra, sand dunes, 9-VIII-2002, P. Sammut & A. Seguna leg.; 39 exx., Marsalforn, Qbajjar, 25-V-2005, P. Sammut & A. Seguna leg.; 25 exx., same

data, 8-VI-2006; GP 5853 Ass., male and 5854 Ass., male, P. Sammut & A. Seguna leg.; 2 exx., Xaghra, 21-23-VII-2005, A. Catania leg.; 5 exx., same data but 11-VII-2005, A. Catania leg.; MALTA, 1 ex., Cirkewwa, Paradise Bay, 18-V-1997, A. Seguna leg.; 3 exx., same data but 10-VI-1998, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Mellieha, Marfa Ridge, Rdum tal-Madonna, 8-VIII-2007, P. Sammut leg.; 1 ex., Mistra, 16-IX-1995, A. Catania leg.; 1 ex., Naxxar, 2-V-1997, A. Seguna leg.

Biology and early stages undescribed (BŁESZYŃSKI, 1965). On the Maltese islands, the species appears to be either two brooded from May to June and again during August and September; elsewhere it produces one continuous long brood.

Distribution: In Europe the species has been recorded from The Iberian peninsula, France, Sardinia and Sicily (BŁESZYŃSKI 1965; NUSS *et al.*, 2004). From the North African coast, it has been recorded from Ain Draham in Tunisia and from Algeria (BŁESZYŃSKI, 1965). According to RUNGS (1980) it is also known from Morocco.

CRAMBIDAE

Pyraustinae

Udea numeralis (Hübner, 1796) (Fig. 11)

[*Pyralis numeralis* Hübner, 1796. *Samml. europ. Schmett.* Pyr.: pl. 14, fig. 89]

Material examined: MALTA, 1 ex., Dingli, Dingli Cliffs, 18-IV-2004, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Dingli, Dingli Cliffs, 5-X-2005, P. Sammut leg.; 1 ex., Mellieha, il-Kortin, 12-VI-2005, H. Borg-Barthet leg.; 1 ex., Mellieha, Mgiebah, 15-X-2004, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Naxxar, 5-V-2005, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Rabat, Dwejra, 23-X-2003, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Rabat, Dwejra, 20-X-2004, P. Sammut leg.; 1 ex., Rabat, Dwejra, 21-X-2004, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Rabat, Dwejra, 30-X-2004, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Rabat, Dwejra, 27-V-2006, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ♂, Rabat, Dwejra, 28-X-2006, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Rabat, Dwejra, 30-IV-2007, A. Seguna leg.; 1 ex., Rabat, Dwejra, 12-V-2007, A. Seguna leg.

Biology: Larva on Brassicaceae (SPULER, 1910; SLAMKA, 1997).

Distribution: Southern European species known from France, Spain, Portugal, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Italy, former Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey.

Conclusion

Besides the above mentioned species which are all new to the pyraloid fauna of the Maltese archipelago, other species, such as *Denticera divisella* (Duponchel, 1842), *Neurotoma coenulentella* (Zeller, 1846), *Epischnia peroni* Agenjo, 1948, *Bradyrrhoa cantenerella* (Duponchel, 1837), *Postemmalocera palaeartella* (Turati, 1917), *Tegostoma comparalis* (Hübner, 1796), and *Sitochroa palealis* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775), formerly considered as rare species have been recorded frequently from different stations on the Maltese Islands. Numerous examples of *Ancylolomia tripolitella* Rebel, 1909 have been recorded at light from l-Irdum tal-Madonna at Marfa Ridge.

Finally *Ancylolomia minutella* Turati, [1926], recorded by SAMMUT (1984, 2000) is not this species but *Ancylolomia tentaculella* (Zeller, 1847).

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Dr. František Slamka (Bratislava, Slovakia) for pointing out to us the correct identity of *Ancylolomia minutella*, Mr. Aldo Catania for providing data on *Euchromius gozmanyi* in his collection, and Dr. Antonio Vives for providing the Spanish translation of the abstract.

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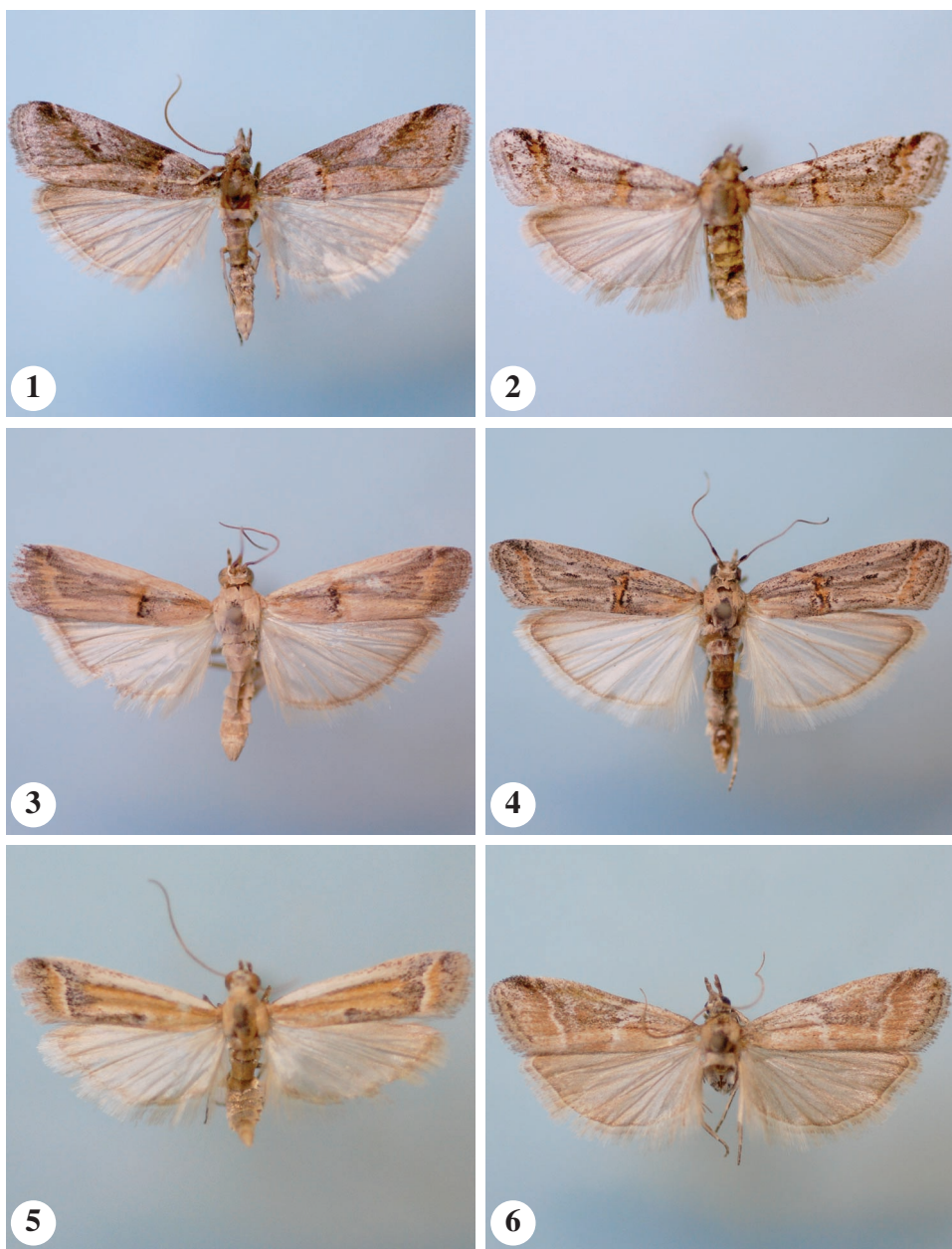
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(Recibido para publicación / Received for publication 20-VI-2008)
(Revisado y aceptado / Revised and accepted 11-VII-2008)



Figs. 1-6.— **1.** *Acrobasis obliqua clusinella* Z. Malta, Rabat, Dwejra, 25-IV-2007. **2.** *Acrobasis centuculella* (Mn.). Malta, Rabat, 25-IV-2007. **3.** *Psorosa dahliella* (Tr.). Malta, Naxxar, 11-VII-2001. **4.** *Psorosa mediterranella* Ams. Malta, Rabat, Dwejra, 28-VI-2004. **5.** *Ancylosis costistrigella* (Rag.). Malta, Naxxar, 22-V-2006. **6.** *Euzopherodes lutisignella* (Rag.). Malta, Rabat, Dwejra, 30-VI-2007.



Figs. 7-11.— **7.** *Delplanqueia inscriptella* (Dup.). Malta, Naxxar, 16-VI-2002. **8.** *Isauria dilucidella* (Dup.). Malta, Dingli, Dingli Cliffs, 10-VI-2003. **9.** *Caina deletella* (Dup.). Malta, Rabat, 28-III-2007. **10.** *Euchromius gozmayi* Blesz. Malta, Gozo, Kercem, San Rafflu, 19-VI-1998. **11.** *Udea numeralis* (Hb.). Malta, Dwejra, 28-X-2006.